

By Frank Drucker

YONKERS, NY, Friday, March 5, 2010 -- "Hobbles?! I don't need no stinkin' hobbles!"



If Master Pine could talk, that's what we surmise he would have said Friday night after easily winning Yonkers Raceway's co-featured \$32,000 Open Handicap Trot.

The win maintained Master Pine's perfect 2010 resume--all since going au naturale--and gave Jason Bartlett a sweep of the evening's co-features.

Sent right to the lead from post position No. 3, the 8-5 favorite had nary an anxious moment. He led at every pylon, eventually whipping a closing Victor's Vicky (Jordan Stratton) by two lengths in 1:58.2. Beach Nut Brand (Jeff Gregory) was third.

For Master Pine, a 7-year-old Master Lavec gelding trained by Julie Miller for co-owners Mark Moger and Albert Delia Jr., he returned \$5.20 for his fourth win in as many '10 tries. The exacta paid \$59, with the triple returning \$216.50

Friday night's co-featured Filly and Mare Open Handicap Pace saw odd-on On the Glass go from first-up to first home.

Leaving from the post No. 5, On the Glass used a :27.2 third quarter to dispense with the suspense, going up and over Little Mermaid N (Jim Pantaleano). She went on to whip Perfectionist (Stephane Bouchard) by 3 3/4 lengths in 1:54. Little Mermaid N was third.



For On the Glass, a 4-year-old statebred daughter of Art Major trained by Ron Burke for co-owners Joe Di Scala and Cynthia Lynn Massari, she returned \$3.10 for her fourth win in seven seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$17.60, with the triple returning \$50.

Friday night also included the third and final preliminary round of the Hopeful Pacing Series for 3-year-old fillies (note that last week's second round was snowed out).

In a pair of \$10,000 events, the first and faster winner was Dragon Princess (Cat Manzi, \$3.30) in 1:57. The daughter of Dragon Again, trained by Darren Cassar for owner Barry Charles, went by the early, loose leader O Lucky Me (Gregory) before winning by a couple of lengths. Briefly (Steve Smith) was second.

The second grouping was won by Angelino (Stratton, \$12), who picked off Brightest Star (Brandon Simpson) late in a life-best 1:58.4. The Western Hanover lass is co-owned by (trainer) Dylan Davis and Warren Racing.

The finals for both genders of the Hopeful are scheduled for next Friday (fillies, \$46,900) and Saturday (colts/geldings, \$49,700) nights, respectively.

Yonkers' regular five-night-per-week schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday) remains in effect. First post for all racing programs is 7:10 PM. Evening simulcasting accompanies all live programs, with afternoon simulcasting available around the NYRA schedule.

Photo credit: Tom Berg